

To the persons reading comments for the FCC greetings,

With regard to main body of the NPRM I am a favor of dropping all code tests at once, however there are a few points concerning related matters I wish to discuss and respect insist that FCC made something on these points clear when the R&O is issued.

The privileges of the entry class, Technician, after this action are frankly unclear to me. As perhaps one of the few members of that class making comments it is a subject near and dear to my heart. It is also a question vital to the future of the ARS, and thus in some degree the safety and future of the USA.

I believe the privileges should be what was known as Before the 1998 NPRM as Tech plus, this is because I have frankly observed that many new Techs tend to get stuck on FM repeaters, a fine mode but hard to break out of, and being hard to break out tends to depress the chances that they will, ( I refer the FCC to prices on allmode rigs with VHF frequencies compared to FM rigs) In addition to issues of cost with the propagation of VHF there are many times that there is no one out there that a novice operator can find and work. From personal experience, I can tell you that this is a hard thing to do, and thus tends to impede the progress of the Techs and separate them from the rest of the ARS. This separation is not good for the ARS or its abilities to serve in the public interest .